

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

SP-02 PRS-01 CPR-01 SY-02 /038 W

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P R 080847Z OCT 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4525

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1897

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CGEN CH US

SUBJECT: GATE INCIDENTS AT USLO

1. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN WHICH US AND THIRD COUNTRY CITIZENS HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY PLA GUARDS AT THE GATE OF USLO AND REFUSED ENTRY IF THEY COULD NOT PRODUCE THEIR PASSPORTS. THIS IS EMBARRASSING AT THE MINIMUM AND HAS INFURIATED A FEW AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND AMERICAN CITIZENS OF CHINESE OR OTHER ASIAN ANCESTRY. IN AUGUST, POLCOUNS BROOKS RAISED THIS MATTER IN A LOW-KEY FASHION WITH THE US AFFAIRS DIVISION OF MFA AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THIS INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO USLO, HOPING MFA WOULD QUIETLY TAKE ACTION TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

2. ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 8, HOWEVER, A PARTICULARLY FLAGRANT INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN PLA GUARDS AT THE GATE REFUSED

FOR AT LEAST A HALF HOUR TO ADMIT FSO DENNIS HARTER AND HIS WIFE INTO THE COMPOUND. REQUESTS TO ADMIT THEM BY USLO OFFICIALS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR BUSH, DIRECTLY AND THROUGH CHINESE LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO KNEW HARTERS WERE TO NO AVAIL. A CALL TO THE MFA US AFFAIRS OFFICE ALSO PRODUCED NO RESULTS. GUARDS FINALLY ADMITTED HARTERS

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ONLY AFTER CHECKING THEIR REGISTRATION AT THE PEKING

HOTEL. WITH THIS INCIDENT, WE DECIDED TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF OUR PROTEST TO THE MFA AND TELEPHONED TO THEM THE FOLLOWING:

BEGIN TEXT: AN OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND HIS WIFE WERE INEXCUSABLY DENIED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICE THIS MORNING FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME BY THE CHINESE SECURITY PERSONNEL AT THE GATE. THE CHINESE GUARDS DEMANDED TO SEE THE PASSPORTS OF THE OFFICIAL AND HIS WIFE. IT WAS CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO THE GUARDS THAT THE PASSPORTS WERE UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN SUBMITTED EARLIER TO THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR REGISTRATION. THE GUARDS REFUSED TO ADMIT THE OFFICIAL AND HIS WIFE. THEY ALSO REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH REQUESTS MADE BY OFFICIALS OF THE LIAISON OFFICE THAT THE UNITED STATES OFFICIAL AND HIS WIFE BE ADMITTED FORTHWITH. THE CHIEF OF THE LIAISON OFFICE PERSONALLY MADE SUCH A REQUEST. ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE FURTHER DELAY WERE THE OFFICIAL AND HIS WIFE FINALLY ADMITTED. THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT WAS EMBARRASSING AND CAUSED NEEDLESS INCONVENIENCE TO THE OFFICIAL, HIS WIFE, AND THE LIAISON OFFICE.

THE LIAISON OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PROTESTS THIS UNREASONABLE INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO ITS PREMISES AND EXPECTS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO ENSURE SIMILAR INCIDENTS DO NOT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. END TEXT

3. COMMENT: THIS QUESTION OF ACCESS IS A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM IN PEKING AND SEVERAL OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE PROTESTED REPEATEDLY AGAINST HEAVY-HANDED TREATMENT OF VISITORS TO THEIR PREMISES. ASIAN COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF ASIAN ANCESTRY ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO HARASSMENT OF THEIR CITIZENS BY UNYIELDING GATE GUARDS. WHILE TODAY'S PROTEST MAY EASE OUR PROBLEM FOR A SHORT TIME, WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC AND EXPECT THIS TO BE A RECURRING ISSUE.
BUSH

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